

workforce, cooperative government officials, and not the least significant, community leaders committed to bringing new jobs into their towns, cities, and counties. One of the fastest growing areas of the Palmetto State is the region known as the Upstate, and a gentleman by the name of Harry M. "Mac" Johnston, played a key role in business development in Union County, until his recent and untimely death.

Mr. Johnston served as the director of the Union County Development Board for slightly more than 2 years, a short tenure to be certain. Despite the brevity of his administration, cut tragically short by a stroke, Mr. Johnston managed to achieve several important accomplishments that will be of great benefit to his fellow citizens. Thanks to the efforts of the late Mr. Johnston, the historic Buffalo Mill was purchased and re-opened, Union County was named as the home of South Carolina's new Juvenile Justice facility, and Upstate residents will celebrate community spirit this fall at the first ever "Uniquely Union Festival." Without question, these are three excellent examples of Mr. Johnston's abilities as a civic booster and promoter of Union County, and had his life not been ended so abruptly, I am confident that he would have continued to have played an important role in the development of Union County.

Mr. President, the impact Mr. Johnston had in Union County was tremendous. He was a very capable and well liked man, and in memory of the many contributions he made to his community, the County Council recently voted to name the new county industrial park after this man. This is a fitting tribute to a person who dedicated so much of his efforts to making our State a better place to live. I commend the Union County Council on the honor they have paid Mr. Johnston and I extend my deepest condolences to his family on the loss they have suffered.

RETIREMENT OF AMBASSADOR DAVID COLSON

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I take the floor today to pay tribute to a distinguished civil servant, Ambassador David A. Colson. Ambassador Colson is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. He will retire from 25 years of Government service on August 2; his departure is a loss to the Department of State and a loss to our country.

Dave Colson's career is an exemplar of public service. In 1966, he graduated from college and joined the Peace Corps, serving for 2 years as a teacher in Liberia. Thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Upon completion of his tour of duty in 1971, he returned to law school. In 1975, he began working for the Department of State, the organization which has enjoyed the benefits of his efforts ever since.

Dave progressed rapidly up the career ladder at State. First as Attorney-Adviser, then as Assistant Legal Adviser, and finally as Deputy Assistant Secretary. He received a career appointment to the Senior Civil Service after only six years working in the Legal Advisers office. Since 1991, he has served with the rank of Ambassador.

Mr. President, those are titles and ranks. They are impressive, but they speak little to Dave's accomplishments and service to our country. The true measure of his contributions lies in the body of international law that he leaves behind and the people whose lives are better because of his work. In these areas, his achievements are legion.

At the Foreign Relations Committee, Ambassador Colson is best known for his expertise in the area of living marine resources. In the past three Congresses, he appeared before our Committee to testify on numerous marine resource treaties. Each of these advanced the interests of the United States and its citizens. Each of them improved the conservation of in the world's marine resources. Each of them developed further the framework of international law that governs the use of ocean space. And each of them was brought about either in large or partial measure through Ambassador Colson's efforts.

Dave Colson's accomplishments are not, however, confined to living marine resources. As Deputy Assistant Secretary for the OES Bureau at the State Department, he has been extensively involved in a variety of issues including the Law of the Sea Convention, the London Dumping Convention, a number of maritime boundary negotiations, navigation issues, and a range of matter associated with the Arctic and Antarctic.

Simply put, Dave Colson became one of the leading experts in the world on oceans. He is to be commended for his invaluable and lasting contributions. I wish him all the best as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 31, the Federal debt stood at \$5,188,888,625,925.87.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,550.80 as his or her share of that debt.

MAINTAINING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH ISRAEL

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to comment on our nation's continued support with its chief ally in the Middle East, Israel. Last week, the Senate completed action on the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. The final legislation soon will be brought before us. This legislation rep-

resents the annual opportunity for Congress to demonstrate its clear support for the people of Israel.

This year is no exception. Both House and Senate bills would continue last year's investment levels to Israel—\$1.2 billion for economic assistance and \$1.8 billion in military aid. I commend the House and Senate Chairmen of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee—Senator MCCONNELL and Congressman CALLAHAN for their efforts to maintain our full commitment to the people of Israel.

I have been a strong critique of foreign aid excess. However, I firmly believe that one of the wisest investments we can make is to the economic viability and national security of Israel. Failure to maintain that commitment could pose even greater costs in the future—costs in lost jobs, lost opportunities and far worse, even lost lives.

I have been concerned of late with the proliferation of advanced weapons to nations that traditionally have been hostile to Israel's existence. In the past year, Iran has acquired advanced cruise missiles from China, and has engaged in an aggressive campaign to develop a nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program. It also recently was reported that Syria may have obtained advanced ballistic missile technology from China. It is no secret that Syria is seeking to develop a far more capable ballistic missile than the Scud missiles that rained down on Israel during the Gulf War. Given these developments, it is crucial that Israel maintains a technological edge in its defense systems. Our continued support of Israel's defense, therefore, is vital.

Mr. President, as we all know, just a few weeks ago, a joint session of Congress was held in order to hear an address by the newly elected Prime Minister of Israel, Binyamin Netanyahu. We witnessed a stirring speech. Prime Minister Netanyahu deserves our congratulations for articulating a thoughtful vision for the people of his country.

Perhaps most important, the people of Israel deserve our congratulations for demonstrating their commitment to democratic values. For nearly a half century, the people of Israel have built and preserved a democracy despite constant hardship and hostility. The recent elections are proof that the people of Israel are determined to withstand pressures from without and within to maintain a democracy, build a vibrant economy and achieve peace and security in the entire region.

Prime Minister Netanyahu came to Washington as Israel's first popularly elected Prime Minister. Rather than be the choice of a governing coalition, Prime Minister Netanyahu is the people's choice. The people chose him to lead the Israeli government, rather than the government itself.

The Prime Minister's speech to Congress demonstrated his appreciation and understanding of the American-Israeli partnership—a partnership that